# Opinions

## Everybody has one...

#### Justice will be served

A man's life was taken on Saturday in rural Union County. It was a senseless act of violence, and, the first homicide of 2014

Rest assured, Union County Sheriff Mack Mason and his investigators will bring this killer, or

Straight

Shooting

I went to school with Jeff Fox. I understand that Jeff had his issues in his lifetime. I also know that Jeff was a harmless individual.

There are rumors floating in our community about his death, and the reasons behind it.

They are just that, rumors, and are not worthy of a com-

The fact is, Jeff was a human being. He didn't deserve to die in the manner that he suffered in the end. I say this to the culprit, or culprits responsible, your day is coming.

The folks in the Fairview Church Road community are on edge. They sit at home, guns loaded, thinking they may be the

Rest assured, there is more law enforcement presence on Fairview Church Road right now than there will ever be again in our lifetimes. It's a quiet community, and historically, always has

well as Sheriff Mason. The investigators in this case are very adept at what they do. They will bring those responsible to justice. Justice will be served, and, it will be well served. Those responsible for this heinous act of violence must understand, you will be held accountable for your actions. You will

Investigators are on the job, so are the patrol deputies, as

suffer the consequences of those actions. Let Sheriff Mason and his department do their job. Don't go spreading rumors about the deceased regarding the reason for

I can't say I understand everything that was going on in Jeff's life. I had not talked with him in more than 35 years. I do

know that he had health issues. My thoughts and prayers go out to Jeff's family. No family deserves to have to go through such a tragic situation and suffer the anguish that comes with such a tragedy.

God be with you one and all.

Affordable Care Act

ficult for residents to obtain accurate, unbiased

information regarding the Affordable Care Act

(ObamaCare) in our North Georgia Commu-

nity. In a previous letter to the North Georgia

News I bemoaned the fact that it was really

difficult for many residents to make important

health care decisions without the crucial and

accurate information necessary to make those

our Governor's and our legislature's war on the

Affordable Care Act (ACA), a number of local

businesses and organizations have stepped up

to the plate and are now assisting their customers and the public in obtaining accurate and

standing of the ACA, how it works and what

the benefits are, have been vastly improved.

With the information provided, residents are

now able to go online, find a health care plan

that meets their needs and their pocketbooks,

avoid penalties, obtain subsidies if eligible and

tax preparation services. They have pamphlets

that outline the available programs and that

answer many of the questions that people are

asking about the Affordable Care Act. If you

are getting your tax returns prepared, their

preparers can give you an idea of what the tax

consequences might be for your situation if

you fail to obtain coverage by March 31, 2014.

They may also provide the public with a lot

See **Berkman**, page 5A

The Battle of Iwo Jima

News commenting on the lack of coverage of

the Battle of Iwo Jima in the news media was

right on target and compelled me to respond. As

you mention, this was one of the most signifi-

cant and fiercest battles in U.S. military history

and one this country should never forget. Those

veterans who fought there deserve recognition

and our gratitude for their enormous contribu-

tion. I knew one of those brave Marines, my fa-

ther, who also fought on Iwo Jima. He was Cor-

poral Alfred Jean de Lorimier and he received a

Purple Heart for head injuries while fighting on

the island. Fortunately, he survived, but carried

with him terrible memories. I will never forget

some of his vivid recollections of that horrible

battle, including losing friends before his eyes

and dealing with the grim aftermath. Sadly, he

passed away this January. He will be missed,

as will so many other great veterans. I agree,

the national media should have placed more

emphasis on this important date but those of

us who know how this country was built know

**HB 875** 

sioners of Georgia has registered its opposition

Amendment laws in effect in the 50 States - an

or stopped a crime? (According to John Lott

and Gary Kleck, some 2 million times each year,

armed American civilians prevent or interdict

miscreant from carrying a gun into a "gun-free

See Mitchell, page 5A

zone" like a courthouse, school or church?

average of more than 600 per state.

So, the Association of County Commis-

There are more than 30,000 anti-Second

Which of those laws has ever prevented

Which of those laws has ever prevented a

Which of those laws has ever prevented

How are we to be made safer as citizens

what is really important!

Dear Editor,

to HB 875.

Carol (de Lorimier) Gay

Your recent article in the North Georgia

Accurate information is available from

secure their health care futures.

Dear Editor,

Well, I am happy to report that, despite

As a result of their efforts our under-

Just a few months ago it was really dif-

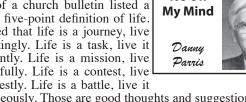
Letters to

the Editor

#### Life is More Than....

vapor. It is like a puff of smoke or like your breath that you can see only very briefly on a cold morning. The dictionary defines life as existence, or what people, plants and animals possess. but rocks, dirt and metals lack.

back of a church bulletin listed a simple five-point definition of life. It stated that life is a journey, live



courageously. Those are good thoughts and suggestions about life, but we keep coming back to the question, what is life?

The Bible declares that God is the source of life and that it is through Him we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28). In my journey of life, it has been my observation that some people have a very narrow and limited view of what life really is. It seems to me that a vast number of individuals never see themselves to be more than a physical being. That is, they see life only in its fleshly form. They are merely an organism that has a variety of needs such as food, water, air, sleep, and etc. They consider themselves nothing more than a physical machine. Therefore, life is the process of providing all of the basic needs to keep the physical machine going. So, they spend their lives engaged in activities that maintain the life of the flesh. They work to earn money to buy food to feed the body; to shelter and clothe the body; they eat, drink sleep, exercise and juggle schedules to make sure the flesh life is maintained. They also understand the flesh has all kinds of cravings, desires, longings and appetites.

Again, there are vast numbers of people who feel that the purpose of life is to gratify every passion the flesh suggests. They pursue the means to satisfy every longing, craving and desire the flesh exhibits. Of course, people who live to pacify the passions of the flesh, whether it be excessive eating, drinking, sexual activity, accumulation of wealth or numerous other pursuits such as pleasure, entertainment or whatever, find themselves not living life but serving the masters of pas-

#### **Questions and Answers**

Q. Do you have any crime statistics for Union County?

A. Yes, we gathered the following statistics on crime in Union Commissioner County from the website, www.georgiastats.uga.edu. • 2011 arrests, 566; 2012, 558

• Property crimes\*\* reported 2011, 138; 2012, 275

Q & A from Union Violent crimes\* reported 2011, 15; 2012, 18

Just to put this in perspective, here are the 2011 stats for Fulton County.

Violent crimes reported 2011, 8,421

• 2011 arrests, 42,104 • Property crimes reported 2011, 52,878

\*Violent crimes are murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault \*\*Property crimes are burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft

Q. Do you have any information on traffic crashes in Union County and how many are alcohol related?

A. The most recent data we could find (Georgia County Guide) is from 2009 and 2010: In 2009 there were 2 fatalities in crashes with 1 involving an alcohol impaired driver; in 2010 there were 4 fatalities in crashes with 0 being due to alcohol impaired driver.

Q. What are some statistics on voting in Union County?

• Registered voters, total active as of 11/1/2012, 13,130

General election, total registered voters, 2012, 13,071

General election, total votes cast for President, 2012, 11,076 General election, % of voter turnout 2012, 85.8%

General election, votes cast, % of Democrat 2012, 19.3%

General election, votes cast, % Republican 2012, 79.2% General election, votes cast, %Libertarian 2012, 1.5%

When we ranked the % of voter turnout for all Georgia counties in the general election for 2012, we were amazed and

pleased to see that Union County ranked #1 at 85.8% voter turnout. The lowest ranked county was Chattahoochee at 36.3%. Q. What are some other interesting statistics on Union County?

A. Here are some miscellaneous stats:

• Child abuse cases reported 2011, 139

Deaths, major cardiovascular diseases, 2010, 94

See **Paris**, page 5A

#### **Technology Training Seminars**

It seems that everywhere we turn these days there is a new type of technology available, a new application to learn, and a new device to master. The way we conduct business

is ever changing Certainly, this pattern will continue and as productive business owners employees we must keep up. Thankfully,

Blairsville - Union County Williams



Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce has partnered with Firm Answers Now to bring you a four course, technology focused seminar series. The classes will be held on consecutive Fridays beginning March 7 from 11:30 to 1:30 at the Union County Community Week one will discuss Google Apps for

Business Success. Attendees will learn about 10 Google apps that can be used immediately in your business to enhance its performance and save you time and money. No experience with Google or Google apps necessary. Everyone is welcome to bring their device.

Week two will bring Microsoft Word 2010 Tips and Tricks. Features to be covered include: creating and working with tables, graphics, using styles, creating and formatting sections and page breaks, headers and footers, and tracking changes. A basic understanding of

See Williams, page 5A

#### Trash and Treasures

Michael Sparks was visiting a Nashville thrift store, where he bought a candleholder, a set of salt and pepper shakers, and a yellowed print of the Declaration of Independence. Sparks figured

the document was a reprint designed for one of those plastic poster frames, so he paid the asking price of \$2.48 and brought it home. After looking

over the document

Moment Leone

Jo.Anne

**Farmers** 

Market

for a few days, he wondered if it might be older than he initially thought. So he started doing some research on the Internet. He soon realized he had purchased one of only 200 official copies of the Declaration of Independence commissioned in 1820. Of those 200, 35 had been found intact. He had number 36.

It took a year for Sparks to have the print authenticated and preserved. He then put it up for auction, netting a final sale price of \$477,650. The candleholder and the salt and pepper shakers were worth virtually nothing. Most of us who shop for a picture to hang

over a hole in the wall would not be as lucky as a tool and die factory worker in Indiana. A dozen years ago, he was at a flea market and purchased \$30 worth of "trash," including a couple of small pieces of furniture and this small, framed oil

Some years later he was playing a board game called Masterpiece in which players attempt to outbid one another for artwork at an auction. One of the cards in the game featured a painting of flowers that looked a lot like the one he had on his wall. So he went online and found that his painting was similar in style to the work of Martin Johnson Heade, an American still-life artist best known for landscapes and flower arrangements.

Through his research he found the Kennedy Galleries in Manhattan, which handles many of Heade's works, and asked them to take a look at his painting. They agreed and were able to verify that the piece of artwork covering the hole in his wall was a previously unknown Heade painting. It has since been named Magnolias on Gold Velvet Cloth. In 1999, The Museum of Fine Arts in Houston purchased the painting for \$1.25 million.

If Î was fortunate enough to have a yard sale acquisition where I netted \$1 million, I'd still carry my checkbook in my favorite leather purse, one I paid a dollar for at a garage sale a few years ago. My favorite wool blazer was \$4 at a church bazaar. I

See **Leone**, page 5A

James, the half brother of Jesus, says that life is like a

About forty years ago the It's On

it trustingly. Life is a task, live it obediently. Life is a mission, live it helpfully. Life is a contest, live it earnestly. Life is a battle, live it

See **Parris**, page 5A



#### Dear Editor,

Russia... I watched the 2014 Olympics in Russia with great interest. It was most impressive to say the least. The opening and closing ceremonies will, I don't believe, ever be topped in my lifetime. The choreography and technology displayed was truly amazing. Needless to say, Russia was trying to put its best foot forward for the world to see. A new Russia, I cer-

I was especially amazed at the host casters "comments," especially the Russian host caster about what Russia had given to mankind. The theme on camera and his comments displayed the contributions in art, literature, and ballet, etc. A deep diverse country filled with history, culture... with much to be proud of. While this is all well and good, it hardly puts meat on the table, if you know what I mean.

I thought long on their theme, and offer the following comments. They pulled off the biggest political coup, a real snow job it was, and we'll probably fall for it. What I think Russia has mostly contributed to mankind, certainly in the last century, was misery. That's right, misery. From the early Bolshevik revolution in 1917, where thousands were killed, to early Stalinism, where he killed millions. Russia was so violent and untrustworthy that neither Roosevelt nor Churchill really wanted Russia as an ally against Germany in WWII. But they had to do it to gain two fronts to defeat Germany. Stalin was not even told about the Atom bomb dropped on Japan until after the fact. What a friend he was.

After WWII, Russia gave us, and all of eastern Europe, the Iron Curtain, enslaving millions upon millions. Then they gave us the Berlin Airlift, not to mention the Berlin Wall. After that, the Russians armed and supplied the North Koreans (and Chinese) to attack and wipe South Korea off the map. And we're still paying for that round. Next, they gave us an armed North Vietnam. Enough said there.

Basically every enemy the United States has had in the last 65 or so years has been served up to us on us on a silver platter by Russia. Russian tanks and AK-47s!

Let's not look over the countless number of vetoes that Russia declared to the UN Security Council as a direct disruption to the peace process. And then there's the KGB. I would say no country in our world has killed more people or interrupted the peace process than Russia.

I couldn't help but notice Putin on camera. Smug. All he had to do was put on a dark brown army coat and hat, glue six pounds of coal black hair on his head, and he'd even look

All we can do is hope. Hope for a new for Russia. Yes they have contributed to mankind, and my observations would indeed suggest misery. Jim Steed. Capt. USMC, 1966-69. Semper Fi

### Wrastling

Get the picture. It was a hot July day in 1970. All of us cousins had finished working in the chicken house and garden. We were on our way to Baker's Rock swimming hole.

Robin was the el dest cousin and she was left in charge by our Grandmother Adams. Each day we made our way to Baker's Rock, First. we would make the



swimming hole deeper by adding another layer of rock to the dam across the creek. Then we would jump off Baker's Rock and swim in the creek. Today was no different and soon Robin was barking out orders to all of her younger I was next in line to Robin and behind me

was Dewayne. He was 2-3 years younger than Robin. Dewayne didn't like the idea of taking orders from a girl. We were nearly finished with the task of piling up rocks and Robin told Dewayne to get a couple more rocks for the dam. Dewayne looked at her and said, "I don't have to listen to you. You are a girl and I am a man and men don't take orders from women." All work stopped at that point and all of us looked at Robin to see what she would do next. She calmly walked to Dewayne and tried to negotiate. Dewayne just stood his ground. I am sure Dewayne thought he could

bluff Robin and she would back down. They were standing nose to nose when Dewayne pushed her. That was a mistake. She grabbed Dewayne and placed him in a head lock that would make Tojo Yamamoto smile. She looked just like a Pro Wrestler. By this time they were standing in knee deep water. She told Dewayne to say uncle. Dewayne screamed out "NEVER." At that point Robin sat down in the water and pushed his head under the water. I began to worry when I saw bubbles coming from the water. Robin yanked up Dewayne's head and said, "Say Uncle." Dewayne said, "No." This happened four times until Dewayne popped out of the water and screamed "UNCLE." He sat there for a moment to catch his breath. Soon he got up and walked over to our dam and began piling rocks. The only difference in this fight and Saturday evening wrestling match was that we didn't need tickets. We had the best seats in the house on top of Baker's Rock.

Years later I was once again visiting with my grandparents in Alabama. It was late February and Papa and I were planning to go coon hunting every night for a week. I had some young dogs and we wanted to hunt in the 30,000 acre Sipsey Wilderness. This area was only open for a couple of weeks each year. We were really excited about the hunts.

The first night we walked around the side of a ridge and sent our dogs in toward the Thompson Creek. My young pair of pups were

See Cummings, page 5A

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